

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 3-7, which as originally filed claimed dependency to claim 2. Claims 3-7 now recite dependencies to claim 1. Applicants have made this amendment in light of the fact that claim 2 was absent from the claims as originally filed. Therefore, Applicants have listed claim 2 as “cancelled.” Applicants have also cancelled claim 11. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 9 to depend from claim 1 for antecedent basis purposes. Applicants submit these amendments introduce no new subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered in the instant application.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, sets forth a restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect one of the following alleged inventions for prosecution on the merits, namely:

Invention I: Claims 1-16 and 27, drawn to a sample holder, classified in class 422, subclass 104.

Invention II: Claims 17-26, drawn to a method of using an automated analyzer, classified in class 436, subclass 44.

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I corresponding to claims 1-16 and 27, for further prosecution.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 248-7044 with any questions or comments if the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the instant application.


Early favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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